

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8592

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2546

DEPT FOR TERRANCE G. GRANT NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, OVIP (BAYULKEN, HALUK)

SUBJECT: CENTO SYG VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF ANKARA 2358

1. CENTO SEC GEN HALUK BAYULKEN CAME BY FOR A TALK SATURDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 29) ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON. IN COURSE OF OUR MEETING, HE REVEALED BASIC THEMES I WOULD EXPECT HIM TO PURSUE DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. (POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL THEMES HE MIGHT RAISE WERE REPORTED REFTTEL.)

2. HIS FIRST POINT WILL BE THAT THE CENTO COUNTRIES SHOULD INCREASE, AT LEAST SOMEWHAT, THEIR EFFORTS ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE. HERE HE THINKS THE IRANIANS WILL HAVE TO CARRY THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE INCREASED LOAD, BUT HE HOPES THE NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS, AND ESPECIALLY THE US, WILL BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE SOME OF THIS ADDED EFFORT. BAYULKEN THINKS SOME OF THE PAST ECONOMIC PROJECTS (HE ESPECIALLY MENTIONED THE MICROWAVE SYSTEM) NEED FURTHER INVESTMENT FOR REVITALIZATION

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PURPOSES.

3. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, HIS MAIN THRUST IS GOING TO BE THAT THE CENTO COUNTRIES SHOULD "DO MORE" FOR PAKISTAN. IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS SEC GEN, HE HAS JUST COMPLETED LONG MEETINGS WITH BHUTTO AND THE SHAH, AND HE REPORTS THAT BOTH LEADERS ARE DISTURBED BY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BALUCHISTAN. HE TOLD ME THAT CENTO SHOULD FACE UP TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT OTHER CENTO MEMBERS SHOULD DO IF PAKISTAN COMES UNDER INCREASING THREAT. I NOTED THE DIFFICULTY AT THIS TIME IN GETTING ALMOST ANY COUNTRY ANYWHERE INTERESTED IN MAKING INCREASED COMMITMENTS OF THE KIND HE WAS MENTIONING. WITHOUT GETTING THE US INTO THIS PART OF OUR DISCUSSION, I ASKED HIM IF HE DID NOT THINK THE GOT WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS OF THE KIND HE APPARENTLY HAD IN MIND. HE AGREED THAT THE GOT WOULD BE RELUCTANT, BUT HE SAID GOT ATTITUDE WAS WRONG, AND HE WAS WORKING ON HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO GET THEM TO SHIFT THEIR POSITIONS. (COMMENT: I WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE OPTIMISTIC OVER THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS.)

4. IN ANY EVENT, NEW COMMITMENTS ASIDE, BAYULKEN WILL BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE SECRETARY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CENTO GENERALLY AT A TIME WHEN, IN BAYULKEN'S JUDGMENT, THE PART OF THE WORLD WHERE THE CENTO TREATY FUNCTIONS IS BECOMING "INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT."

5. ANOTHER KEY AREA OF INTEREST IS A MORE PERSONAL ONE. AS A FORMER TURK FONMIN, BAYULKEN MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO REBUILD TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS IN ARAB CAPITALS, AND HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF PERSONALLY TO BE AN EXPERT ON THE ARAB WORLD. BASED ON WHAT HE SAID IN OUR PRIVATE MEETING, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE ALLUDED TO HIS EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE AND DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FOUND A WAY TO SUGGEST THAT HE MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO THE SECRETARY IN HIS EFFORTS IN THIS AREA. WHETHER HE ACTUALLY BROACHES THIS SUBJECT OR NOT I CANNOT BE SURE.

6. FINALLY, GIVEN THE PRESENT CONCERNS IN THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP, BAYULKEN IS LIKELY TO EXPECT THE SECRETARY TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HIS CURRENT THINKING REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT RELATIONSHIP.

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